

THE
INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST.OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
AUSTRALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Australia, 4/- per year; 1/- per quarter.
Postage added to other countries.

RAY EVERITT, Managing Editor.

ORDERS FOR PAPERS.

Send to the Manager, 115 Goulburn Street,
Sydney.

MATTER FOR PUBLICATION.

All articles and matter for publication must be addressed to the "Editor" and accompanied by the name and address of the writer (not necessarily for publication).

Write on one side of the paper only, and be sure to write in black ink.

A Red Wrapper.

DID YOUR PAPER COME IN A RED WRAPPER? IF SO, YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE, AND YOU SHOULD RENEW AT ONCE IF YOU DESIRE US TO CONTINUE SENDING THE PAPER TO YOU.

Make Postal Notes and Money Orders payable at HAYMARKET Post Office, Sydney, and address them to the Manager "I.S.", 115 Goulburn St., Sydney, N.S.W.

The Plague and its Cause.

By MARCIA.

"Disease, devastation and the red death hold unlimited dominion over all things."

The shadowy phantom, which has hovered at our gates so long, has at length taken tangible shape and form; and is stalking through the land, laying its grisly fingers on men, women and children, and taking a heavy toll of victims.

Here in Australia, it was hoped for a while, that the dread disease, which even now has not been thoroughly diagnosed, would fail to gain a footing, and every precaution was taken to safeguard these shores.

Futile, however, were the efforts; the precautions no doubt, were responsible for keeping the epidemic at bay, and the restrictions now in force may check its spread to a certain extent; but the foul thing which has been cast loose on society by the lust for gold of the capitalist class will penetrate all over the world, because CONDITIONS prevailing in every capitalist country will feed the flame of this deadly and insidious enemy.

Let us take the situation right here.

To begin with, we must get down to the root of the proposition and find out the starting point of the evil.

That is undoubtedly the war; it is an historical fact that after all wars plagues have swept over and ravished the lands in their vicinity, consequently it is only to be expected that after such a war as the last when so many nations were involved, the effects should be far reaching, and that disease in many and varied forms should infest the world.

So we realise, that the war, which was fought for profit, and set on foot by the development in the capitalist system, is the undoubted cause of the scourge.

Constant return of soldiers from abroad, extending over an indefinite period, make it a matter of certainty, that we in this country, sooner or later would suffer from the effects of the wholesale slaughter and rotting bodies on the fields of Europe.

It is here and despite all efforts to retard its growth it is spreading! What? In a country with such a climate as this in a place which is known as "God's own country" with everything in our favor, granted we get disease here, surely it ought not to obtain a footing.

But it is increasing daily, and as is always the case, the workers are the chief sufferers.

ADELAIDE BRANCH.

ORGANISING SECRETARY WANTED.

Applications are invited for the position of Organising Secretary to the above Branch. Applications to be in by April 23rd. Salary, £4 per week.

ALF. W. WILSON,
Organising Secretary.Room 4, A.W.U. Hall,
15 Flinders St., Adelaide.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Owing to lack of space, a large amount of correspondence has been unavoidably held over.

The ECONOMIC CONDITIONS in Australia, as in every other capitalistic country, are absolutely bad and rotten. The workers are always on the verge of starvation, and the last four years, especially, have been living under such great pressure, that it is a matter of impossibility for them to have the physical strength to stand against the ravages of such a disease.

This is upheld by the fact that in New Zealand, a large percentage of those who have recovered from influenza have not the constitution to throw off its effects, and are developing consumption.

The average worker hasn't an ounce of superfluous strength to fall back on, and economic conditions prevent proper care being taken.

A man or woman feels ill, and habitual poverty forces them to keep working as long as it is physically possible; in this way the disease is spread by contact, and also lessens the chance of recovery for the sufferers.

The same applies to the convalescents, they return to their employment before their full strength comes back, and a fatal relapse often takes place.

It has been deplored by the Press, that these conditions are prevailing, and blame cast to women who go on with their household duties until they drop from exhaustion.

They are forced to do so. Who will look after their homes and children if they lay up? Men must work or starve, and medical attention is a luxury only to be sought in extreme cases.

This sickness is all the more fatal to the working class people, because they cannot obtain proper attention.

There are a few men and women who are battling bravely and sacrificing their lives, but they are alas, too few.

Nurses prefer to tend those who can pay them well, rather than work for a pittance at the hospitals; economic interests again, it is bred in the system.

And where are those who shouted the loudest in War time? Where are the women in dainty garments who took part in street collections for War purposes, who were most anxious to win the war, and urged people to vote, and voted themselves to send other women's sons and husbands to the battlefield against their will? Where are all these enthusiasts? As far away from the trouble as they can get, breathing pure air, and having around them every thing that is humanly possible to keep them immune from the disease.

And we of the working class, have to exist in hovels rotting with age and decay, and where the pestilence is worst, the houses are so damp, that the water is trickling down their walls.

The chief point that effects us now, is, we must not look upon this plague as a judgement of God, or such like absurdities.

It is caused by the CONDITIONS THAT EXIST.

How many times has that been emphasised and rammed down the throats of the workers?

How much longer are they going to remain deaf, blind, and dumb? Will this latest horror, force the knowledge of their position into their heads?

A small section of society hold the means of production, and because of that fact, they can, in their sordid greed, create such conditions, that men and women are herded together like sheep, are on the verge of starvation, and at the present time, are swept away by a loathsome plague, because of their weak physical condition, and their putrid surroundings.

Under a sane system, such things would be impossible, such evils would be unknown, because they would have no breeding grounds.

At last then we have come to bed-rock, the proposition is clear; the capitalist system must go and a new system instituted.

It is for the workers to organise on class lines; so that the one may be overthrown; the Socialist regime substituted in its stead; and then emancipation achieved for all time.

Slams and Jabs.

By JAYBES.

The Russian Revolution and Atrocities.

In the history of the proletariat there is no greater achievement than the Russian Revolution. From the day the Bolshevik made their successful coup d'etat against the reformist bodies of Russia the columns of a harlot press have been religiously devoted to slander; it has poured forth its slime seasoned with vitriolic bitterness based on a knowledge of the interests of the class it represents. The argument in chief is seen under the seare headlines "BOLSHEVIK ATROCITIES." Forget not, fellow worker, who may read this that this is the CAPITALIST PRESS representing the capitalist class. ATROCITIES! Let us take a passing survey of history. The Paris Commune of '71 is as green in the memory of the workers as the events of yesterday; bourgeoisie brutality in crushing an upward struggling working class equals the vilest in history. (Read the "International Socialist" of March 15th for facts on the Commune murders).

The Russia of the ex-Czar's regime reeks with remorseless cruelty and is reddened with the life's blood of the best and bravest sons and daughters a despoiled nation ever produced. The "Congo atrocities" were real and grim; word pictures cannot express the real pictures of the real handless little colored kiddies and their feeble parents which marks one of the bloodiest pages in the history of a ruthless Belgian king and the capitalist class whose head he was. The wilful murder of men, women and children, in the western mining camps of America, by paid thugs and hired gunmen of the American ruling class, speaks well for the "democracy" Wilson said he was trying to make the world safe for. The flogging of inoffensive German workmen and the inhuman treatment meted out to them by the hired Australian military caste in the concentration camps and the unmerciful treatment upon the poor ignorant natives who didn't have sense enough to understand our type of "CIVILISATION," brings us up to date in REAL ATROCITIES right here. ATROCITIES! The whole history of capitalism is one huge atrocity, and marks a gory page in the ethic period known to some as "Civilisation." If there are lives lost in Russia to-day it is not because the Bolshevik desire it to be so. The Bolsheviks, against tremendous odds, are organising the NEW SOCIETY where all shall receive FULL PRODUCT OF THEIR TOIL, against them and the "NEW SOCIETY" are to be found all the rotten and corrupt elements bred in the womb of capitalism. Allied troops numbering close on 400,000 are arrayed against them for the purpose of attempting to overthrow the Soviet regime and re-enthroned capitalism.

To the Bolsheviks there is no alternative but FIGHT. We admire them, and are with them to the last ditch. If here in Australia, for instance, we, the workers, successfully overthrew capitalism and established an INDUSTRIAL REPUBLIC and an attempt was being made by any outside band of plundering mercenaries to defeat our aims and desires would we not rise and defend OUR republic? Only a coward would say no. Russia is doing just that thing, and it is our duty here to organise for the same purpose, for by organising here we will strengthen the forces of Revolution and the stronger the revolutionary force of the working class, both politically and industrially, the less hope will the Allied capitalists have of successfully intervening in the affairs of the workers' republic in Russia.

If you have a fight left in you use it to some purpose, join forces with the Australian Socialist Party and hasten the day of your own emancipation.

Hungary Awakens from her Centuries of Sleep.

At last the wave has broken on an endless shore. We predicted that it was only a matter of time when the seething mass of discontent, the direct outcome of capitalist exploitation, would find expression in a well directed and disciplined movement. Hungary bids fair to become a second Russia and the mistakes of the Russian Revolution will not have to be repeated in Hungary. Revolutionists never make the same mistake twice, and the valuable lessons learned from Russia will bring success to the revolution in Hungary. Revolution demands severe discipline, chaos belongs to capitalism, not to socialism. In Hungary the

revolutionists are determined that the slum elements, criminals and the defeated reactionary bourgeoisie shall not vent their frenzied fury upon the people. Looting is met with instant death, the sale of intoxicating liquor is prohibited (Tennison Smith and the prohibition fakirs take notice) until such times as order is restored and the workers are efficiently organised to carry on production scientifically. All these precautions are taken to prevent chaos. Chaos is the hope of capitalism recovering itself; discipline and order spells success to the revolution.

Have the Allied Troops Been Withdrawn From Russia?

The British miners (all credit to their sense of solidarity) include in their demands the withdrawal of all the British troops from Russia. The press turns round and tells the miners that there are very few troops belonging to the Allied Governments stationed in Russia. In spite of this we have it on the authority of M. Pichon, the French Foreign Minister, that the total strength of the allied forces on the Archangel and Siberian front number 370,000. All we ask YOU to ask yourself in your sober moments is this simple little question: "What in hell are the allied troops doing in Russia?"

Where Does the Church Stand on the Economic Problems?

At a meeting of the Church Conference held in Melbourne the Rev. T. S. B. Woodfull (the name suggests to us the material his head is made of) moved the following motion:

"That, in view of the present world-wide economic and industrial unrest, it is advisable that this conference should prepare a broad general outline of the position our church holds in regard to the principles underlying industrial and labor questions."

The POSITION of the church on social and economic questions is already WELL defined; they have ever been on the side of reaction, and in the name of religion have stuck their beaks into problems they know nothing about, or if it did know it always supported the oppressors and opposed the oppressed.

It matters nothing what attitude the church takes up and their views on "the principles underlying industrial and labor questions" are about as useful as a burst toy balloon. We know that capitalism with its exploitation and robbery is THE root cause, and we are out to abolish it by revolution.

We strongly advise Woodie, and various other dead timbers who associate with him, to stick to their own trade, and we will manage the rest.

Cossack Leader Seminoff gets the Sack And Becomes Troublesome to the Allies in Russia.

You will perhaps be able to brush your memory into remembering the fulsome eulogies that were spewed on General Seminoff, the anti-Bolshevik leader of the allied forces in the Omsk district of Russia. It now happens that Seminoff has fallen out with the rest of the bandits, and instead of sharing up the spoil he stole from the districts in which he was engaged he is feathering his own nest. Whenever he commits robbery and pillage he puts the results of the exploit into his own pocket, and is at present living like a lord. The allied forces gave the job to a sea going chap who happened to be out of a job by the name of Admiral Koetchak. When this son of Neptune approached the Cossack bandit with his credentials he was told to go and get his head read. Seminoff has established, off his own bat, a capital at Chita, the capital of Transbaikalia, and is collecting the customs which formerly were collected by the Omsk Government. The Bolsheviks are on that route, and in a week or so we will be able to report that they have captured the lot, and settled the dispute.

He Isn't a Bolshevik, and we are Glad to Know it.

The Melbourne "Argus," the rag that ably protects capitalism and craft union officials of the "safe and sane" type, announces the fact that Harry Foster (the job conscious secretary of the Melbourne Plumbers' Union, and the right bower of Bill Duggan, the reactionary organiser of the same union, is NOT A BOLSHEVIK. There was little need for such a proclamation, unless Foster specially desired to intimate per a "Argus" "Prominent People" column that he hadn't deserted his capitalist cobblers. Foster is perhaps the best known reactionary in the Melbourne Labor movement. He is due for the industrial garbage can shortly.

"The Socialist Press"

America and England know this, and are using all their persuasive powers to induce the French robbers to ease up and steady their nerves. If France acts openly (for up until now they have been engaged in military operations under the guise of bringing "order!!") it will sound the clarion call to the forces of revolution and, the royal war between international capitalism and the international working class will begin. Oh, for the DAY. Every day of capitalism hastens its own downfall. Don't stand off and wait for THE DAY. Make the day come nearer by strengthening the forces, JOIN THE A.S.P.

It is that isn't the work of anti-Socialist. You have to show me, Mr. W. J. Miles, but the most subtle part of the letter, is that apprehending the distinction between him "not being a Socialist," and being, as I stated, an Anti-Socialist. I will maintain that this assertion on the part of Mr. W. J. Miles is not quite in accord with his public statements. His denial will have to be backed up with something more than an assertion. For

How?

Finally, the readers will have a pretty good estimate of the work of the S.D.L. in Sydney, when they know that a man who admits that he is not a Socialist has been somewhat of a financial mainstay. Echo cries, WHY? — Moses Baritz.

As a final passage to round off the question put by A. S. Reardon, I cannot do better than quote the final passage of Daniel De Leon's address on the Premise of the I.W.W. now known as the W.I.L.C.: "Industrialism means Might, Craft Unionism means impotence. All the plants of production, aye, even the vast wealth for consumption, is to-day in the keeping of the working class. It is working men who are in charge of the factories, the rail roads, the mines, in short, all the land and machinery of production, and it is they also who sit as watchdogs before the pantries, the cellars, and the safe deposit vaults of the capitalist class; aye, it is they who carry the guns in the armies. But this place of vantage is of no avail to them under Craft Unionism. Under trade unionism, only one craft marches into the battlefield at a time. By their idly looking on, the other crafts seat it upon the combatants. What with that, and the idle on-looker of those divisions of the workers who man the commissary department, so to speak, of the Capitalist Class, the class struggle presents, under trade unionism, the aspect of petty riots at which the empty stomachs and empty hands of the working class are pitted against the full ones of the employing class. Was this ignorance? Was this treason? Whether reason or ignorance, the turning in the wrong lane has been reached. Both the present conduct of trade unionism, and the future conduct of industrial unionism, was well portrayed by one of the delegates at the (1905) Chicago Convention.

